

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has an interest in improving the quality of life of all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in March 2011 the City Council adopted the City of Austin Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Strategy which identified a need for 1,889 additional units and a near-term plan for at least 350 PSH units by 2014, utilizing proven approaches that prioritized the chronically homeless and frequent users of public systems to achieve the greatest cost avoidance to taxpayers by reducing emergency room care, reducing jail time, and supporting re-entry into the work force; and

WHEREAS, national cost studies and objective evidence of intervention efficacy and metrics of self-sufficiency prepared for the City of Austin by the Corporation for Supportive Housing in September 2010 cited a 50 percent reduction in incarceration rates, a 50 percent reduction in emergency room visits, an 85 percent reduction in detoxification services, and a 50 percent increase in earned income by residents of PSH; and

WHEREAS, many of the most effective outcomes of PSH studied utilize the Housing First approach which is generally distinguished by its emphasis on moving people into stable housing first and then working to provide robust wrap-around services that address the medical, mental, or behavioral conditions and other needs of residents; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness released the nation's first comprehensive strategy for ending chronic homelessness entitled *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to*

Prevent and End Homelessness, which endorsed Housing First as a best practice that can be used in project-based or scattered site models; and

WHEREAS, the development of Housing First PSH requires the capital investment to build and operate housing units as well as ongoing supportive services that may be provided by different partners or funded from a variety of sources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Rental Housing Development Assistance application has been updated to include additional points awarded for the inclusion of Housing First PSH in proposed affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the suggestion of utilizing a Request For Proposal has been reviewed by the PSH Leadership Council as an effective method of coordinating investment and attracting interest in a Housing First PSH project by qualified providers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is working with Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO) to provide an evaluation and update of the PSH Strategy by June 30, 2014; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to:

- Work with ECHO and other community partners to establish a working definition of “Housing First” PSH for the Austin community.
- Establish the required qualifications for consideration to operate and/or develop a Housing First PSH community.

- Prepare a formal City of Austin Solicitation for a Housing First PSH project that coordinates the required capital investment with multi-year resident support services, including the Health and Human Services Request for Applications and other funding sources, to be reviewed by the Leadership Committee on PSH Finance within the next 90 days.
- Using the PSH Strategy, the Fiscal Year 2014-2019 Five-Year Consolidated Plan to HUD, and the Comprehensive Housing Market Study to be finalized in August 2014 that will identify gaps in affordability and expected demand for housing for specific subpopulations, work with the Leadership Committee on PSH Finance and other stakeholders to establish targets for the number of Housing First units to be delivered and serviced by the community over the next five years through additional solicitations or other mechanisms.
-

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____
 Jannette S. Goodall
 City Clerk